



Swimming Policy

Swimming is an important life skill. In addition it is a highly beneficial activity for acquiring an increased movement vocabulary and skills, for health, for enjoyment and as a threshold skill, giving access to many other water-based recreational activities. It is one of the few activities that people can enjoy all their life either on their own or with friends and family of the same or different ages, whether just for fun or competitively. We owe it to our youngsters to give them the best chance to learn to swim, as well and as early as possible.

School Responsibility

The Headteacher/ Governing Body should ensure that a nominated member of staff is delegated the responsibility of swimming coordinator and applying the swimming pool safety policy and procedures in school. This will include the use of a third party pool. It also includes the following responsibilities :

- Appropriate risk assessments
- Pool safety operation procedures
- Qualifications and training of staff and maintaining records
- Any instructions issued to staff

Teaching staff have the responsibility to ensure:

- Children are appropriately supervised when changing
- Pupils are under control at all times
- Normal and emergency procedures are enforced
- Teachers have an overview of the teaching of their children and the conduct of the class

Lifeguards

Currently, there is no statutory requirement for a lifeguard to be provided. Ideally there will be a designated person with an appropriate nationally recognised lifeguard qualification. Pool operators have a responsibility for the safety of all those who use their pools. Whenever children swim, there must be someone present with appropriate life guarding, rescue and first aid skills. In a school pool this will be a teacher, the swimming teacher or an AOTT.

First Aid Arrangements

At the sports centre there is a qualified first-aider (holding a First Aid at Work certificate) available within call at all times that the pool is in use.

Qualifications

It is recognised that qualified school teachers have a range of skills and experiences which enable them to deliver a variety of curriculum areas. However, there are obvious health and safety issues in the teaching of swimming and its associated disciplines; therefore it is our policy for children to be taught by a teacher who holds an appropriate specialist qualification.

Teachers leading primary school swimming lessons should hold as minimum qualifications:

- ASA National Curriculum Training Programme Module 2.
- NaRs Pool Safety award.

The school will ensure that these qualifications are kept up to date.

Teachers should never teach swimming without at least one other person present to assist with first aid and rescues if necessary.

Pool Rules

The pool rules should be explained to the children before their first swimming lesson and they should be reminded of these rules.

For children these are:

- Do not enter the water until instructed to do so
- No running on the poolside
- No eating on the poolside
- No shouting or whistling
- No jumping or diving in, unless under instruction
- No pushing others in
- No holding others under the water or deliberately splashing them
- No jewellery to be worn
- No outdoor shoes on the poolside
- All instructions from staff to be obeyed promptly

For staff:

- Never leave the poolside unattended
- Never turn their backs on the pool or engage in any behaviour which results in not watching the pool
- Watching out for vulnerable or weak swimmers
- Keep alert, move position regularly

For Parents:

- Parents must not go pool side
- Parents must watch from the designated areas
- Parents must not shout out, call to the children or distract the teachers in any way
- Parents must speak to the school sports coordinator if they have any concerns or issues
- Parents must not enter the changing areas

The National Curriculum provides non-statutory guidelines for Key Stage 1:

Pupils are taught to move in water, float and move with and without swimming aids. They are taught to feel buoyancy and support of water and swimming aids and propel themselves in water using different swimming aids, arm and leg actions and basic strokes.

The National Curriculum requires that for Key Stage 2:

Pupils are taught to pace themselves in floating and swimming challenges related to speed, distance and personal survival. They are taught to swim unaided for a sustained period of time over a distance of at least 25 metres. The children use recognised arm and leg actions and a range of recognised strokes and personal survival skills.